

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed October 18, 2004. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants amend Claims 3, 5-10, 12-14, 17 and 19-24, and cancel Claims 1-2 and 15-16. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement on January 17, 2002. Applicants did not receive PTO-1449 forms, initialed by the Examiner, indicating that the Information Disclosure Statement submitted January 17, 2002 was reviewed by the Examiner even though the office action indicated that PTO-1449 forms were attached. For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants include copies of the aforementioned Information Disclosure Statement submitted January 17, 2002, along with a copy of the acknowledgment return postcard date stamped January 17, 2002, attached hereto as Exhibit "A". Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner confirm the review of the Information Disclosure Statement submitted January 17, 2002, by returning the initialed PTO-1449 forms.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 4, 17 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have re-written Claims 3 and 17 in independent form and have accordingly changed the dependency of the dependent claims to ultimately depend from either Claim 3 or Claim 17. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Section 103(a) Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 2, 6-13, 15, 16, and 20-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cmar* in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,178,362 issued to Woolard et al. ("*Woolard*"). The Office Action also rejects Claims 5, 14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cmar* in view of *Zaloom*. Applicants submit that the rejection of these claims is moot because of the reasons noted above with respect to re-

writing Claims 3 and 17 in independent form. Reconsideration and favorable action are therefore requested.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe that no fees are due at this time. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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